foreign exchange earnings of 9.6 percent has been forecasted for the year 1999-2000.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Ko, Sir.

(d) The percentage of business tourists to the total tourists during 1998 was 5.1.

Relaxation in Coastal Zone Regulation to Promote Tourism

2132. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism in its 31st report recommended that coastal zone regulations (CRZ) should be relaxed for the development of special tourist areas projects; and

(b) if so, details of action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARTI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Tourism has taken up the matter with coastal area states for elucidating the specific difficulties faced by them in light of coastal zone regulations notified by the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

Strategy for Environment-Friendly Tourism in Andaman

2133. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that development strategy for environmentally sustainable tourism in the Andaman has been prepared with the WTO/UNDP assistance; and

(b) if so, the details of the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARTI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following four projects were identified in the first phase:—

(i) Wandoor Scuba-diving Resort,
(ii) Corbyn's Cave Beach Resort, (Hi)
Port Blair Marine Centre, and (iv)
Radhanagar Beach Resort,

It was decided to first conduct a study of the carrying capacity of the specific areas for the four identified projects. The UNDP, in consultation with the Ministries of Tourism and Environment & Forests have since identified an organisation for undertaking the carrying capacity study.

Development of Special Tourism Area

2134. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any steps for identification and development of special tourism areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARTI): (a) to (c) In consultation with the State Governments, the following areas have been identified for development as Special Tourism Areas:—

(i) Bekal Beach in Kerala
(ii) Diu
(iii) Muttukadu in Tamil Nadu *(iv)*
Puri in Orissa
(v) Sindhudurg in Maharashtra

Government of Kerala has constituted Bekal Tourism Authority in 1992 and Ministry of Tourism has released Rs. 1.90 crores in March, 1992 for the preparation of Master Plan. Bekal Resort Development Corporation was set up in 1996 and land measuring 189.87 hectares has been acquired by the Corporation from the State Government. Government of Maharashtra has also set up Special